

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 158185

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON PRAVDA ARTICLE

FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS MADE BY SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEF-
ING JUNE 21:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE ARTICLE ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS THAT
APPEARED IN PRAVDA JUNE 17 HAS BEEN GIVEN THE MOST CAREFUL
ATTENTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF
THE SOVIET POSITIONS SET FORTH IN THAT ARTICLE. THERE
ARE STATEMENTS IN THE PRAVDA ARTICLE WITH WHICH WE ARE
OBVIOUSLY NOT IN AGREEMENT BUT WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD
SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE TO PRECIPITATE ANOTHER ROUND OF
RHETORICAL EXCHANGES.

AS THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE
FOR BOTH COUNTRIES AS WE MOVE AHEAD WOULD BE TO CONCENTRATE
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ON THE CONCRETE ACTIONS WE BOTH CAN TAKE TO REDUCE TENSIONS
AND TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE CRITICAL ISSUES NOW UNDER
NEGOTIATION.

WE ARE PREPARING FOR A BUSY AGENDA OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE SOVIET UNION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, INCLUDING SALT,

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TALKS AND MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE
REDUCTION TALKS IN VIENNA. PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS AND IN
OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIB-
UTE TO THE PROSPECTS FOR LONG-TERM STABLE RELATIONS. END
QUOTE.

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